

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An information retrieval service system comprising:
an information retrieval site connected to the Internet, said information retrieval site comprising:
a retrieval server, and
a retrieval database communicably linked to said retrieval server, wherein
said retrieval server of said information retrieval site is configured to retrieve from a plurality of information providing sites data providing detailed information regarding similar services respectively provided by said information providing sites, store in said retrieval database the data providing the detailed information regarding the similar services which is retrieved from said information providing sites, retrieve from said retrieval database the data providing the detailed information regarding the similar services in response to information-retrieval input information received by said information retrieval site from an information terminal, and transmit to said information terminal names or address information of said information providing sites and said data providing the detailed information which is retrieved from said retrieval database so as to cause a monitor of said information terminal to display said names or address information sites of said information providing sites and said data providing the detailed

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/731,706

information regarding the similar services respectively provided by said information providing sites in a comparative manner.

2. (previously presented): The information retrieval service system according to claim 1, wherein

said retrieval server is configured to retrieve from said information providing sites said data providing the detailed information regarding the similar services respectively provided by said information providing sites by periodically accessing said information providing sites.

3. (currently amended): The information retrieval service system according to claim 1, wherein

said retrieval server is further configured to transmit to said information terminal said address information in the form of a hyperlink indicating an Internet address of the information providing site from which the data providing the detailed information regarding the similar services is retrieved, wherein said hyperlink is embedded in a data image that is displayed on said monitor of said information terminal.

4. (previously presented): The information retrieval service system according to claim 1, wherein

said information retrieval site further comprises a user registration database configured to store a profile of a user, and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/731,706

said retrieval server is configured to retrieve the data corresponding to the information-retrieval input information, according to the profile of the user, which is read from said user registration database.